



Fall 2004

Service Connection

THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER
"Working together for Safe Drinking Water."



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Bureau of Health

Proposed Rule Changes

By Tera Tower

The Drinking Water Program (DWP) is in the process of adopting changes to the "Rules Relating to Drinking Water" (10-144 CMR 231). On August 19, 2004, the DWP held a public hearing at its office on 161 Capitol Street in Augusta. The final day for comments was August 30, 2004. After the DWP responds to all comments and the Attorney General's Office reviews and approves the final proposed changes for form and legality, then the DWP may file the rules for adoption with the State of Maine Secretary of State's Office.

Principal Reason or Purpose for Proposing Changes:

The changes to the State of Maine "Rules Relating to Drinking Water" involve updating requirements for capacity development, security measures, well construction and setback waiver information to protect Maine public drinking water systems in a more complete and effective manner.

Analysis and Expected Operation of the Rule Changes:

Part of the rule changes helps assure that new owners are qualified to properly operate and maintain public water systems in Maine. Prospective new owners of existing community and non-transient non-community public water systems would be required to

undergo capacity reviews to assure that they adequately demonstrate technical, managerial, and financial capacity to operate a public water system. In addition, current owners of all public water systems would be expected to report any suspicious activities or security breaches to their

systems. This new requirement would help the Drinking Water Program to participate more actively in protecting Maine's citizens who consume public drinking water. The DWP would be able to provide faster and more effective technical advice on treatment issues and security information related to threats to the systems if the DWP is notified more promptly. Other additions and improvements include relevant definitions for "emergency response plans", "tampering", and "appropriate local authority", as well as important changes regarding well construction, setback waivers, general operations permits and capacity demonstration.



For More Information: To learn more about the specific changes by viewing a summary of the rule changes or the proposed text, access the DWP web site at <http://www.medwp.com>. If there are further questions regarding the current status of the rule adoption process, please contact Tera Tower, Rulemaking Coordinator at (207) 287-5680.

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Changes in Drinking Water Program Staff

Linda Robinson

Total Coliform Rule Coordinator

Linda Robinson has an Associate of Science in Business Management from the University of Maine at Augusta. She has worked for the Division of Health Engineering since May 1988. During the past six years, Linda has worked for the Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program administering the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules and reviewing variances to these rules. In this capacity, she worked closely with the Maine Drinking Water Program, Eating & Lodging Program, and municipal officials. Linda resides in Pittston and enjoys spending time with her husband kayaking, ATV-ing, fishing, and hiking, as well as numerous other outdoor activities.

David Robbins

Compliance Section Manager

David earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science ('83) and Masters Degree in Regional Planning ('89) from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. During the past seven years he worked in Denver for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the State Program Oversight Officer and as Team Leader for EPA's Wyoming Public Water Supply Supervision Program. Prior to working with EPA, David worked for eight years with the Indian Health Service in Alaska providing consultation to Tribal organizations on compliance with all environmental regulations. David currently resides in Augusta and enjoys hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing.

Denise Douin

South-Central Maine Field Services Engineer, State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) Project Manager

Denise has been with the Drinking Water Program since July 1999 as a Field Services Technician in South-Central Maine. Since July, she has been responsible for the South Central Field Services District (between Rangeley and Brunswick) and is a project manager for SRF-funded construction projects. She conducts sanitary surveys and does follow-up site visits.

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2004 DWP Retreat



Annual Staff Merit Award

By Joy Adamson

The Maine Public Drinking Water Commission (DWC) awarded its third annual staff merit award to Lindy Moceus, Phase II / Phase V Rule Coordinator, for her exemplary performance over this last challenging year. Lindy's responsibilities with overseeing compliance for volatile organic compounds (petroleum products), inorganics, pesticides, and herbicides include: examining test results; assisting water operators with compliance questions; and, issuing notices of violations when water suppliers either fail to monitor or exceed maximum levels. Richard Berry, DWC Chair, presented Lindy with the award at the Drinking Water Program's annual staff retreat. The DWC selected Lindy as this year's recipient after reviewing nominations from the drinking water community. She has worked for the Drinking Water Program for approximately six years. For five of those years, Lindy has worked as the Total Coliform Rule Coordinator and, is now the Phase II/V Rule Coordinator.

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Bond Update

The Maine Legislature did not approve any bond packages this year. Consequently, the DWP has no state match for 2005 DWSRF projects. Without state match, no projects will be funded in 2005.

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New Well Approval Update

By Andy Tolman

The first contact most new public water suppliers (PWS) have with the Drinking Water Program (DWP) is the new well approval process. We are always working to make that process as smooth and efficient as we can, and to bring PWS's into the fold in a way that assists them in maintaining compliance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Towards that end, we have been working on developing some new tools, forms, and procedures that will assist both the DWP and PWSs in developing and obtaining approval for new sources.

This process improvement fits into our vision of "Working Together for Safe Drinking Water", and also meshes with other DWP initiatives to increase the safety and security of drinking water supplies. We are working to coordinate more closely with other state agencies, especially the Eating and Lodging and Plumbing Control Programs. Many new PWSs need approval from all three of us, and we want to help the applicant make good decisions about where and how to develop their business. We are also making improvements on how information about a new PWS is transferred to our field staff and compliance staff for long-term monitoring and inspection.



One particular focus in the process is the licensing of existing unregulated PWSs. There are a number of entities, usually Eating and Lodging establishments, who are serving water to more than 25

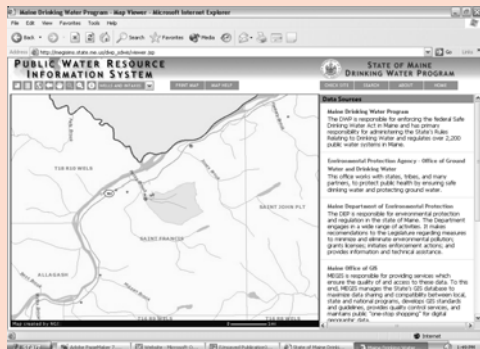
people more than 60 days a year without source approval or ongoing monitoring. These entities are, in fact, public water supplies, and without source approval and monitoring, they represent a risk to public health. We are streamlining the review and approval process to bring these entities into compliance as quickly and effectively as possible.

We have already updated the applications for new well approval to include basic information for wellhead protection. This information allows us to work with the PWS in developing a wellhead protection plan, and also helps field staff in inspection and compliance staff in determining the availability of waivers from testing. Stay tuned for further developments.

Internet Mapping Site Upgrade

By Andy Tolman

We are updating our Internet Mapping Site to increase performance and functionality through a contract with Northern Geomatics, the site developer. While many of the changes will be on the administrative and programming side, there will also be some new features to make the site more helpful to individuals working to manage source protection areas.



The site was initially developed as a tool to help water suppliers and regula-

tors evaluate proposals for development around public water supplies. It is accessible from the Drinking Water Program (DWP) web site <http://www.medwp.com>, and requires registration. The registration requirement was added after September 11, to reduce the risk of access by potential terrorists. Many municipal officials, tank installers, consultants, and developers use the site as a tool to help them plan safe and complaint development.

The site upgrades will include the addition of new data on underground storage tanks from Maine Department of Environmental Protection to complement the land use activity data already on the site. We will also be adding new base layers, including air photos from the Maine Office of Geographic Information System (GIS) library. We have used these layers internally, and have found them very useful in assessing development plans.

For DWP users, we will be adding tools to assist field staff in planning site visits and accessing information about public water supplies. These tools will help them provide better customer service during inspections and sanitary surveys. The new site is expected to be up and running this fall. If you are not already a registered user, now is a good time to check out the site and watch it grow.

Maintaining Optimum Corrosion Control Treatment for Lead and Copper

By Dana Ivers

The Lead and Copper Rule with its ninetieth percentile (90%) action levels and optimum corrosion control treatment (OCCT) usually takes a back seat when a water system needs an additional water source or need to comply with rules that have maximum contaminant levels (MCL). Water systems in Maine and across the nation have worked very hard to reduce the lead and copper levels in their distribution systems. Maintaining an OCCT, while adding new sources or while working to reduce the disinfection by-products (DBP), can be challenging.

Water systems may need to make adjustments to their OCCT whenever a new source or treatment is added. Prior to making any changes to their OCCT, water systems need to gather the water quality parameters (WQPs) data from the entry point(s) and the distribution system and submit them to the Drinking Water Program (DWP). The DWP must approve any changes in treatment or source. Regular WQP monitoring will indicate if there are any seasonal changes. Standard WQPs are pH, alkalinity, and phosphate or silicate, when applicable. Collect the WQPs at the entry point(s) at least once every two weeks and the distribution samples at the bacteria sample sites at least twice every six months.

Washington D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) made national news when they exceeded allowable action levels for lead. The increase in lead levels was attributed to the changes they made in the disinfection treatment process. In 2000, WASA changed from chlorine to chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, to reduce their DBP levels. Then, in 2002, WASA exceeded allowable action levels for lead. The lead levels and the percentage of failures continued to climb, and a study of the lead services lines, conducted in 2003, showed that WASA had a very serious lead corrosion problem. In April and May 2004, WASA switched back to chlorine, while they flushed the water system.

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Maintaining Optimum Corrosion Control Treatment for Lead and Copper, Continued from Page 4.

The lead level test results from homes with lead service lines were 25 to 30 percent lower during that time. On June 1, 2004, WASA switched back to chloramines and started adding zinc orthophosphate for corrosion control. The zinc orthophosphate treatment could take months or more likely years to reduce the lead levels to below the action level. WASA is currently in the process of removing over 23,000 "known" lead service lines, another process that will take years.



Getting the lead out of a water distribution system is the best option a water system can adopt. Lead has been used in the manufacturing water lines and fixtures for generations. The health hazards

attributed to lead have also been known for generations. The Safe Drinking Water Act prohibits the installation of any high lead device or fixture, greater than 8%, or the use of high leaded solder or flux, greater than 0.2% in a water system. Water systems should be replacing, not repairing, any water meter that was manufactured prior to 1987 to ensure they do not install high leaded devices in the distribution system. Several manufacturers now make a variety of "No Lead" devices, less than 2%, such as meters, faucets, and cross connection control devices. The point being that every part per billion of lead prevented from being installed or that can be removed from the distribution system is less lead the water systems will have to treat for.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently tabulating the lead and copper test results from the last three years for all of the states to determine if the nation has similar lead corrosion problems. The report should be available prior to this publication. The states reviewed the data prior to publication to ensure that any high value is not spurious. The preliminary review indicate that there are still some lead and copper corrosion problems, but the number of failures are no where near the numbers reported ten years ago. What happened to WASA should be used to encourage all water systems to pay attention to their distribution systems whenever they make a change in treatment.

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced H.R.4268, the Lead Free Drinking Water Act of 2004, which would amend the Safe Drinking Water Act. The legislation would impose new responsibilities on EPA, the states, and the water utilities nationwide and it would include a ban on lead and reduce the allowable amount of lead that a "Lead Free" fixture can contain. Reduce future lead levels by not allowing or requiring the removal of lead service lines and high lead fixtures from the distribution system.

Who was Awarded Wellhead Protection Grant Money in 2004?

*By Joy Adamson**

The Source Water Protection Section refined the Wellhead Protection (WHP) Grant Program to reflect the priorities in the Source Water Assessment Program. The WHP Grant Program is now focused on providing support for activities that reduce or eliminate threats identified in the Source Water Assessments.

The following community and non-profit, non-community public water systems utilizing a groundwater source have been awarded up to \$5,000 for wellhead protection efforts: Alfred Water District - Delineate WHP zones on surface, develop a WHP ordinance, purchase signs for 3 zones, purchase a spill kit and educate staff and children in the area; Augusta Water District - Update maps of aquifer draw area and geographically locate potential contamination sources (PCSs); Baileyville Utilities District - Purchase and install fencing; Brunswick Topsham Water District - Develop an education and outreach program; Calais Water District - Investigate WHP recommendations, develop WHP ordinances, develop educational materials, and purchase signage; Cold Spring

See Who was Awarded Wellhead Protection Grant Money in 2004?, Page 6



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Who was Awarded Wellhead Protection Grant Money in 2004?

Continued from Page 5.

Water Company - Complete a hydrogeological study; Cornish Water District - Purchase and install fencing; Dixfield Water and Sewer District - Purchase the Envision 3000 Simulator and the DeLorme xMap System; Gouldsboro Community Center - Build housing over well; Limestone Water and Sewer District - Properly abandon wells, and purchase and install signs; Mexico Water District - Replace 14 oil lines in the WHP area; Orono-Veazie Water District - Purchase and install fencing and gate; Pine Ridge-Hunton Brook Association - Print maps, develop an ordinance-easement and deed; Presque Isle Water District - Assess the source water protection (SWP) areas of two new wells and map them; Rumford Water District - Replace 15 buried and grouted oil supply lines within the SWP area; Sandy Point Water Company - Develop a quality management system, emphasizing WHP; Sanford Water District - Remove a septic system that is less than 300 feet from the well; and, West Paris Water District - Reclaim gravel pit near drinking water supply.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about the Drinking Water Program's Wellhead Protection Grant Program please contact Andy Tolman at (207) 287-6196 or David Braley at (207) 287-4196.

**In August 2004, Joy Adamson started working for the State of Maine Public Utilities Commission in Augusta, Maine.*



Wellhead Protection Best Management Practices and Model Ordinance Complete

By Andy Tolman

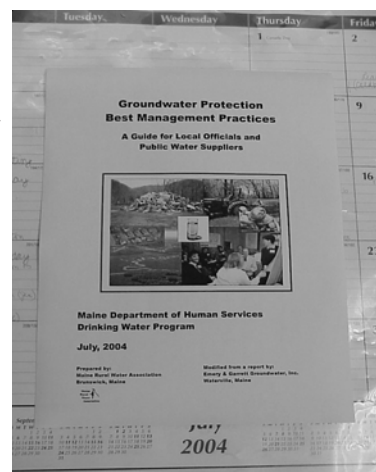
The Source Water Assessments identified future development as the primary threat to Maine's public water supplies (PWS). Most water suppliers do not own or control much of their wellhead protection area, and many wellhead protection areas have no land use restrictions. In the long term, contamination of public water supplies is likely to occur as development encroaches on their recharge area. One part of protecting sources is the development of a municipal strategy that includes management of existing land uses and regulation of new development to reduce the risk of contamination.

With that in mind, the Source Protection Section has worked with Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA) and their consultants to develop a Model Ordinance and Best Management Practices Manual for wellhead protection. These documents are intended to provide a starting point for Towns and PWS's to develop

land use management solutions to protect public water supplies. Much of the material is also applicable to the protection of surface water supplies. The documents are available on the Drinking Water Program web site and from MRWA, who can also provide assistance in customizing the ordinance to fit local needs.

On a similar note, the Source Protection Section partnered with MRWA to revise the Safe Home Program manual. This manual provides information on potential sources of contamination found in most homes, and tips for private landowners on how to minimize their impact to PWS's.

For further information, contact Andy Tolman at (207) 287-6196 or Alex Wong at (207) 729-6569, or visit our web sites at <http://www.medwp.com> or <http://www.mainerwa.org>. We will be scheduling training on the use of these materials in September. Check the training calendar for specific dates and locations.



Water Operators

Grandparented Status Expired –File Designated Operator Form!

Systems with Grandparented operators have received Designated Operator Forms. **Please return this form to the Drinking Water Program (DWP)** promptly. Information concerning contracts and contract operators is available on the website and from staff ready to assist in assuring systems are operated by qualified professionals.

EPA Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant

Designed to benefit small systems with 3,300 persons or less by:

- Providing reduced fee training
 - Entry level; and,
 - Professional development
- Three free exams for operators of small systems.
- Free license renewals for operators of small systems.

NEW! Calendar of Training Events

The DWP will be hosting a calendar of training available in Maine on the DWP web site.

Links to the training provider will give you more information on the classes. Paper copies will be available on request and seasonally.

2004 License Renewals

Renewal notices to persons holding even-numbered licenses expiring December 31, 2004 will be sent in October.

Check your Training Contact Hour (TCH) requirements!

Exams

The Board of Licensure of Water System Operators has approved direct entry exams. You may take an expanded exam for each classification without the exam sequence requirement!

Examination applications are available on the DWP web site at <http://www.medwp.com>. Return applications by the postmark deadline (approximately 7 weeks) to:

**Board of Licensure of Water System Operators
Maine Drinking Water Program
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0011**

Examinations fee \$50 each.
Examination dates in April, June and October.

VSWS	6.0 TCH
Class I	12.0 TCH
Class II	18.0 TCH
Class III and IV	24.0 TCH

June Water Operator Exams

Exam Level	Pass Rate	Operators
VSWS	71%	79
Dist. I	63%	22
Dist. II	36%	9
Dist. III	35%	5
Dist. IV	33%	5
Treat. I	48%	18
Treat. II	22%	4
Treat. III	0%	0
Treat. IV	22%	2

Congratulations All!

Staff Contacts

Contact Terry Trott at (207) 287-7485 or by e-mail at teresa.trott@maine.gov, Beth Pratte at (207) 287-5295 or by e-mail at beth.pratte@maine.gov, and, Carol Champagne at (207) 287-5699 or by e-mail at carol.champagne.maine.gov.



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North-Central Maine Field Services
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Surface Water Treatment Rule Coordinator
Cross Connection, Lead & Copper Rule Coordinator
Capacity Development / Security Coordinator
Southern Maine Field Engineer, SRF
Phase II / Phase V Rule Coordinator
SDWIS – Data Manager
Data Management
Secretary
Water Operator Specialist
Compliance Section Manager
Total Coliform Rule Coordinator
DWSRF & Field Services Manager
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Source Water Protection Section Manager
Enforcement & Administrative Section Manager
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